

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

OFFICIAL

In re Application of: Michael Austin  
Application No.: 09/966686  
Filed: October 1, 2001  
For: A Method and Apparatus for Contracting, Loading  
or Crimping Self-Expanding and Balloon  
Expandable Stent Devices  
  
Examiner: Marc Jimenez  
Group Art Unit: 3726

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Docket No.: S63.2N-7405-US02

## AMENDMENT

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated April 22, 2004 and pursuant to the Advisory Action dated July 14, 2004.

If an extension of time is required to make this response timely and no separate petition is enclosed, Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time sufficient to make the response timely. In the event that this response requires the payment of government fees and payment is not enclosed, please charge Deposit Account No. 22-0350.

Please amend the application as follows: